

**Carole Tovar**  
**P.O. Box 13675**  
**Mill Creek, WA 98082-1675**

January 21, 2002

John Ashcroft  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

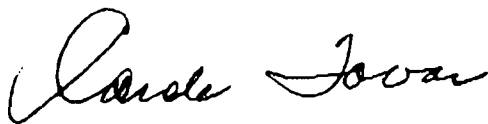
I'm writing to encourage you to support the recent anti-trust settlement Microsoft reached with the U.S. Justice Department. I feel this is something Microsoft has agreed to merely so it could end the suit and so it can return to the business of making good and innovative software.

Microsoft has, for example, agreed to allow computer makers to change Windows so that Microsoft's products can be removed from the operating system and competing, non-Microsoft products can be installed in their places. AOL Instant Messenger can be installed in the place of Windows Messenger; RealNetworks RealPlayer can be installed in the place of Windows Media Player; and Netscape Navigator can be installed in place of Internet Explorer. Microsoft has also agreed to not take any actions against computer makers who choose to do this, or who decide to ship operating systems that compete with Windows, or who develop software that runs on such alternative operating systems.

That sounds pretty far-reaching to me. To give its rivals a break, Microsoft is giving up all kinds of rights over its freedom to contract and over its own property. There's no point in hounding them with even more litigation.

I encourage you to accept the terms of the settlement so Microsoft can continue to make good software and provide jobs to thousands around the country.

Sincerely,



Carole Tovar